

London - Brethren's Society 4.
Prithren
105. 6. 61
3

STATED RULES

OF THE BRETHREN'S SOCIETY, FOR THE Furtherance of the GOSPEL among the Heathen.

WE, whose names are under-written, being convinced, that the Brethren's Church hath a peculiar call from God to carry the glad tidings of salvation to the Heathen, and especially to such as never yet heard of the Redeemer of the world; and knowing also that many ministers and members of the said church are now actually employed in this blessed work, the success and happy fruits of whose labour are seen in many places; and being ourselves in union with this Church, cannot but most ardently wish to promote this great work of God to the best of our power.

THEREFORE we have resolved to form ourselves into a Society, under the appellation of "The Brethren's Society for the Furtherance of the Gospel among the Heathen," and unanimously agreed upon the following articles as the stated rules of this Society.

A

A R T I-

A R T I C L E I.

THIS Society is not formed in opposition to any other of the like nature, nor is it to interfere with the charities of any other Society whatever.

A R T I C L E II.

THIS Society is to consist of members of the Brethren's Church, and is properly established here in London, where they will regularly meet; yet members may also be chosen, who reside in other places of the British dominions or elsewhere.

A R T I C L E III.

BUT beside the aforesaid members of the Society, persons who are not of the Brethren's Church, but are friends and well-wishers of the furtherance of the gospel among the Heathen may be chosen as honorary members of this Society; to whom, from time to time, accounts will be communicated of the work of our Lord among the Heathen through the Brethren's missions; and such honorary members may be admitted occasionally to the meetings of the Society.

A R T I C L E IV.

THE design of this Society being to assist those missionaries and their helpers, whom the directors of the missions of the Brethren's Church may send to the Heathen in different parts of the world, we will not confine our assistance of those missionaries to gifts and contributions

contributions only, but it will be our great pleasure to promote this amiable work with our best services, in all respects, by entertaining them during their abode in England, and also supplying them with all necessaries for their passage to the places of their destination, and during their residence at those places.

A R T I C L E V.

ALTHOUGH our chief aim is to further the gospel, and assist the missionaries in the British dominions in America, and other parts of the world, yet we are also desirous to give all possible aid to the Brethren's missions among the Heathen in other countries.

A R T I C L E VI.

AND whereas the UNITAS FRATRUM, for many years successively, hath appointed deputies, and committed unto them the care of the Heathen missions and the management of the contributions, which, for the unavoidable expences attending this work of God, are given freely, from time to time, by the Brethren's congregations and by others; we will therefore act in connexion and fellowship with these deputies; on which account our secretary and other brethren of the committee are to cultivate a constant correspondence with them, that we may be informed of the occasions requiring our assistance, and be ready to assist.

A R T I C L E VII.

AND whereas the aforesaid deputies of the Brethren's Church have always a corresponding agent, who re-

sides in London, to execute their commissions, we will always be ready to give him all the assistance we can therein.

A R T I C L E V I I I .

EVERY one of us is willing to add his mite to those free gifts made at stated times, in the Brethren's congregations, for the service of the missions among the Heathen. But besides this, a box shall be placed in the room where we meet, into which every member of the Society may put at any time what he thinks proper, all which is to be employed for the use of the said missions. The committee is to take an exact account of this money as well as what may come in by way of donation, legacy, or otherwise, and also how it is expended; and this account is to be laid before the Society once in three months.

A R T I C L E I X .

If this Society, or one or more members thereof, should be appointed trustees of any lands, for a settlement among the Heathen, in that case we engage to be faithful to our trust, and not claim for ourselves, at any time, what shall be settled upon us in trust.

A R T I C L E X .

THE ordinary meeting of the Society to be once a month, at a time and place to be determined upon by the Society, and as soon as can conveniently be after the day, on which, accounts of the progress of the
gospel

gospel, especially among the Heathen, are usually read in the Brethren's Chapel.

A R T I C L E XI.

THE Society is to chuse a committee, consisting of six members, a secretary and one or two servants: one of the committee is to be appointed treasurer: and all the ordained ministers of the Brethren's Church present in London, are to be looked upon as members of the committee and each of them to have a vote.

A R T I C L E XII.

THE members of the committee are to act as deputies of the Society, and are to meet once a week, or as often as may be thought needful for the dispatch of business, and four of the committee are empowered to do business.

A R T I C L E XIII.

THE committee may call an extraordinary meeting of the Society, when business requires.

A R T I C L E XIV.

THE committee is empowered, upon any emergency, to borrow in the name of the Society, or contract debts of any sum not exceeding fifty pounds.

A R T I C L E XV.

AT the first meeting of the Society in every year, the six members of the committee, the secretary and the

the servants are either to be continued in their offices, or others elected in their places.

ARTICLE XVI.

UPON the decease or removal of any member of the committee, or any other incident requiring a new choice, the committee is to propose such person or persons to the Society whom they think proper for the office.

ARTICLE XVII.

SUCH persons ought to be members of the Brethren's congregation, of a good capacity and a good character among the Brethren as well as among their fellow subjects.

ARTICLE XVIII.

PERSONS proposed by the committee to the Society, for members of the committee, are to be chosen by the majority of the members of the Society present.

ARTICLE XIX.

WHENEVER any new member or members are to be proposed to the Society, the committee is first to consider whether such person or persons may be of use to the Society in carrying on the abovementioned purposes: And if the persons proposed by the committee are approved of by the unanimous choice of the Society, by ballot, then such person or persons are to be admitted members.

A R T I-

ARTICLE XX.

BUT if, on the ballot, there should be any negative to the choice of the person proposed, the member or members objecting, are to mention his or their objection to some member of the committee, when the case is to be reconsidered; and if the objection can be removed, to the satisfaction of the objector, such person or persons may be proposed a second time to the Society; and if no new negative appears upon the ballot, he or they are to be then admitted members.

ARTICLE XXI.

No member of the Society is to acquaint any one, either of his being proposed or chosen a member of the Society, for this is to be done by the secretary, or some other member of the committee appointed for it, as circumstances require.

ARTICLE XXII.

No person once admitted into this Society is to be removed out of it, but after mature consideration of the committee, and with the consent of the majority of the Society; and a person thus removed not to be readmitted but by ballot.

ARTICLE XXIII.

WHEN any new members are admitted, the rules of the Society are to be read to them, and each new member is to subscribe them.

ARTI-

ARTICLE XXIV.

THE Society may form new articles, which are consistent with the tenor of the above articles and the well-being of the Society, as circumstances may hereafter require.

ARTICLE XXV.

THE above rules are not to be altered but on mature deliberation, and in a meeting of the Society, and by majority of votes; and previous to any alteration a month's notice shall be given, expressing the nature and design of the alteration proposed to be made.

F I N I S.



A